



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

LOCARNINI et al

Atty. Ref.: **2551-28**

Serial No. **09/306,420**

Group: **1648**

Filed: **May 6, 1999**

Examiner: **Mosher, M.**

For: **VIRAL VARIANTS AND METHODS FOR DETECTING
SAME**

* * * * *

June 17, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT UNDER RULE 116

Responsive to the Official Action dated December 17, 2001, entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks are requested; the period for response having been extended up to and including August 17, 2002, by submission of the requisite extension petition, extension fee, Notice of Appeal and Notice of Appeal fee, attached.

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 32-54, without prejudice.

Add the following claims:

--55. (New) An isolated HBV mutant, comprising a mutation in the gene encoding the HBV DNA polymerase resulting in decreased sensitivity to a nucleoside analogue compared to a wild-type HBV, wherein said mutation results in at least one

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